

MEETING MINUTES

May 23, 2013

8:30 AM

Paul Dolan called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

Present: Reena Shaw, NRCS; Emerson Wildes, Jessica Blackledge, ERICD; Gina DeMarco, Paul Dolan, Bcca Buckler, NRICD; Harriet Powell, Clarkson Collins, J.Eric Scherer, SRICD; Dick Went, RIACD; Paul Gonsalves, RI Statewide Planning; Ken Ayars, DEM. Ramona LeBlanc, Debra Aiello, RISCC.

I. Minutes: A motion was made to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2013 meeting; Emerson/Harriet: unanimous.

II. Financial Reports: A motion was made to acknowledge receipt of financial report; Emerson/ Ken: unanimous.

III. NRCS Agreements:

A. Engineering:

1. The engineer has resigned. An ad will go out to advertise the position.

B. Outreach:

- 1. In the third round of four workshops with NRCS. The billboard campaign is underway.**

C. Rivers:

- 1. Drawing for Bristol's use is waiting for approval.**

IV. Old Business:

A. FFOS:

- 1. A letter to FFOS enrollees' is being reviewed by DEM legal staff. Ken will check status. Dick Went will discuss process of determining farm values with Tom Sproul at URI.**

B. PR Document/Website:

- 1. Ramona would like guidance from the Board to determine hourly rates and assign values. District Managers will work with SCC to set fee structure.**
- 2. Ramona expects to have a link set up within the next week on the website.**

C. Policy Update:

- 1. A policy meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2013. Ramona will schedule a special SCC meeting at the same time to discuss 2014 budget.**

D. SESC Handbook:

- 1. Eric reported that the SESC Handbook is in the final stages of being completed and is undergoing peer review, receiving positive feedback. An electronic form will be posted on DEM website; also, a factsheet will be posted to the RC&D site through a link directed to DEM.**

E. Engineering RFP: Tabled until Eric Offenbergs is present.

F. Board Recruitment Update:

- 1. ERICD-Jessica has been recruiting. She thanked other district for providing names of potential members to ERICD Board.**
- 2. NRICD- Gina reported that some recruitment has come out of the seedling sale program.**
- 3. SRICD- Eric reported that two Associate Directors have joined**

SRICD; they will be working on goose abatement and educational programs.

G. SCC/ Board Retreat:

1. Clark provided contact information to Ramona. She will follow up to plan an event intended for a Saturday in August.

H. Farm at Snake Den:

1. NRICD is looking to take over the lease at the farm. NRICD is working with DEM- currently in the negotiating stages.

I. SSC/FFOS Appointments:

1. A letter requesting appointments was sent to the Governor's office last year. Paul suggested a follow-up letter to get a response. A motion was made to set up a nominating committee to fill vacancies on SCC and FFOS sub-committee; Clark/Harriett: unanimous.

V. New Business:

A. Legislative subcommittee: Ramona reported that she would like to form a committee addressing specific issues.

B. DEM Geese Agreement: A copy of the agreement was provided to the Board for review. The Board suggested that the Districts bill the SCC for costs incurred on a monthly basis at cost and remaining funds be distributed proportionally at the end of the grant based on percentage of work completed.

VI. Reports:

A. SRICD: Written report distributed. NRCS funding is available for Irrigation Water Management (IWM) plans. The Water Resource Board may have supplemental funding and would like to discuss having the SCC act as a fiscal agent to distribute.

B. ERICD: Written report distributed.

C. NRICD: Written report distributed.

D. DEM:

1. A pesticide disposal program is starting with farming communities. DOT will provide drop off facilities.

2. A conservation plan is being developed for 8 Rod Management Area.

E. NRCS Activity Report: A written report was distributed to the Board members. Summer interns will be starting this week.

F. RC&D: Annual meeting is scheduled for October 24-25 in Warwick, RI.

G. RIACD: Farm Bill is in the process of being passed.

A motion was made to end the meeting: Harriett/Emerson; unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.